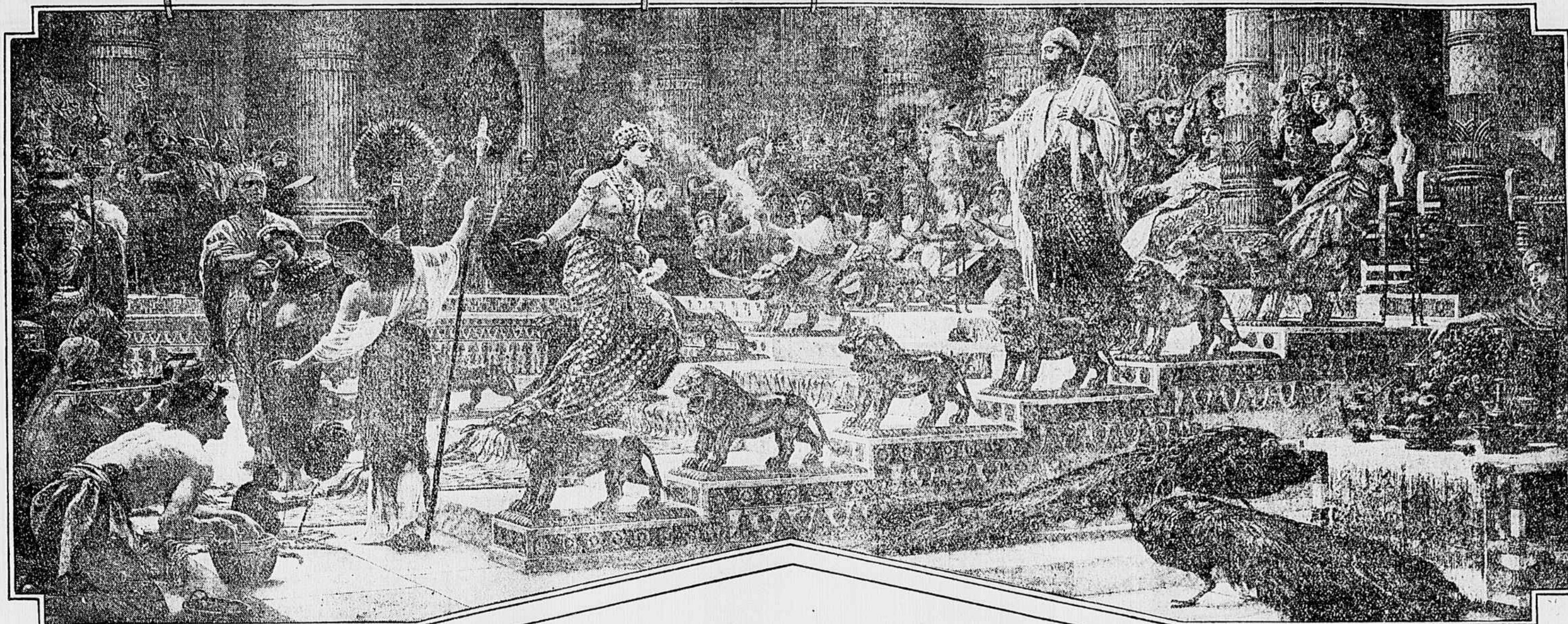


To Open the Tombs of Joseph and David if the Allies Win



Christian Rule in Palestine at Last Will Enable Archaeologists to Search for the Most Precious of Human Records, in the Labyrinths Under Solomon's Temple Site and Buried with the Great Personages of Old Testament History

THE archaeologists of every Christian nation are ready and awaiting the greatest opportunity—from the Christian standpoint—fore-shadowed in all the history of that ancient land. Equipped with money and with machinery and tools for excavating and exploring the sites of ancient tombs where the most precious of human records have lain buried for centuries, they are waiting only for the termination of the great European war.

If the Allies are victorious, with Germany definitely beaten, Palestine at last will have been wrested from Mohammedan control. Under an English Protectorate it will be virtually a Christian land. The Turks can no longer forbid Christian feet to press soil that is so sacred to them. There will be nothing to prevent the reverent opening of the tombs of Joseph, Rachel and David, and of the Patriarchs, and the Labyrinths within the great rock upon which stood Solomon's Temple, and a systematic search for the relics and writings which in all probability were buried with those great personages of Old Testament history.

The world wants to be sure of the history of past ages. It cannot know unless the records are re-enforced by facts. The facts of scriptural history lie buried in the sacred sites of Palestine, which the Turks will not permit any European to enter, much less to violate by excavation. Americans and Europeans do not consider it a violation of the dead to excavate their tombs in order to confirm the statements of Holy Writ, as many believe they will be made clear.

But so long as the Mohammedan controls the Holy Land no one will be per-

mitted to excavate any of the tombs, for they are held inviolate by the Turks, who believe that misfortunes would come upon them if they permitted such sacrilege.

If the Allies win, and the present plan of giving over Palestine to the Protectorate of England is carried out, there will be a tremendous revival of interest in the excavating of the places set apart as the tombs of the greatest names in the Bible.

The ancient Hebrews were most careful as to the burial of their dead, and one of the first acts that Abraham performed when he had settled in the Land of Promise was to purchase the cave of Machpelah as a place of burial. Here, according to the Bible, Genesis xix., 31, "they buried Abraham and Sarah, his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah, his wife," and there Jacob requested his sons, when he died in Egypt, to bury him by the side of Leah, his wife. Rachel, the mother of Joseph and Benjamin, had died while Jacob was travelling and had been buried near Bethlehem.

When Joseph died he made his brothers swear that whenever they departed from Egypt for Palestine they would take his body with them and place it in the tomb of the Patriarchs at Machpelah. It distinctly states in the very last verse of the book of Genesis that "they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt," and in Exodus xiii., 19, we read: "And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him; for he had straitly sworn the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones away hence with you."

While there is no record of the actual interment of Joseph's body in the tribal tomb at Machpelah, it is generally ac-

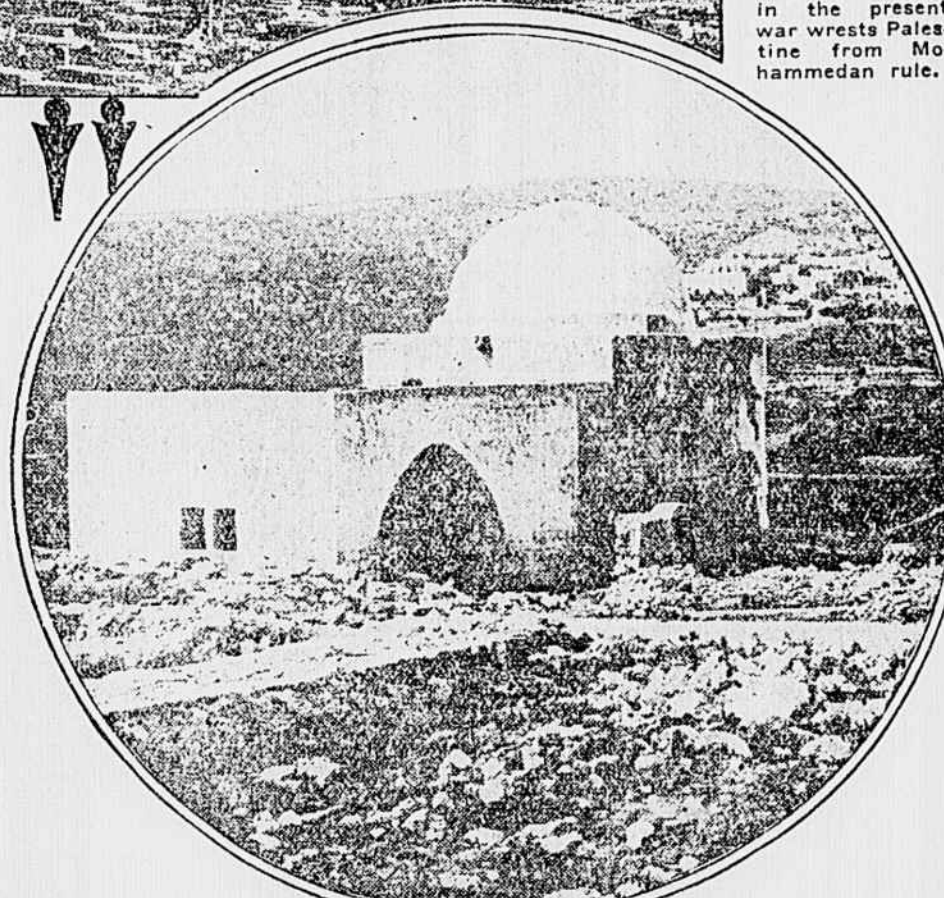
cepted that it was placed there.

If, then, England assumes the Protectorate over the Holy Land after the war is over, one of the first objectives of the investigators will certainly be this Cave of Machpelah, now covered by a great Mohammedan mosque, under which they have a right to expect to find the tombs of Abraham, who lived something like 4,000 years ago; of Sarah, his wife; of Isaac, his son, and his wife, Rebekah, and of Jacob and Leah.

Even though it is possible that the Hebrews did not practise mummifying in the earliest period, the sarcophagi of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah will be brought to light, and the body of Jacob, probably mummified, for he died in Egypt, and was certainly preserved according to the Egyptian custom.

But most interesting of all the discoveries will be that of the body of Joseph, which, embalmed (or mummified), according to the Bible, and lying undisturbed all these many centuries, will go far towards making the world understand how great a man was this vizier of the Pharaoh in those days of stress and struggle. We may at last look upon the face of Joseph and see what manner of man this was who was great enough to forgive his brothers for all the injuries they had done to him, and by his wonderful ability and statesmanship climbed so high as to be next to the Egyptian throne.

The story of Joseph is the most complete in all the Old Testament, and if the children and men and women were asked whom they would like most to see of all the Old Testament heroes there is hardly one who would not want to see Joseph and know what kind of man he looked when alive. Thanks to the perfect process of mummifying practised by the Egyptians, we have a right to expect that when the coffin of Joseph is at last opened we shall be able to see every



The Tomb of Rachel, Near Bethlehem, Where She Died—Too Far from the Cave of Machpelah to Admit of Her Burial There Beside Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob and Leah. Rachel's Tomb, Always Jealously Guarded, Is Believed to Be Rich in Historic Remains.

feature of the man who made a new Egypt.

When the excavators come to the tomb of Rachel they will be treading upon ground long guarded against the approach of any man. When Edward VII., as Prince of Wales, went to visit Palestine he was denied entrance to this tomb on the ground that as Rachel had been a woman it was wrong for a man even to approach her coffin. But if she too has been preserved by the ancient methods of embalming, the world will be able to see the features of the woman for whom Jacob labored fourteen years, and who must have been to him at least the most beautiful of her sex.

When the excavators come to Jerusalem they will hardly know how to begin, or where, there are so many points of vital interest to the Jewish and Christian world there. If they are trying to trace the history of the Jews they will certainly dig at the reputed Tomb of David to ascertain whether his body is really there. According to I. Kings ix., 10: "So David slept with his fathers and was buried in the city of David," he must have been buried in Jerusalem, for that

was emphatically his city, he having ruled there for thirty-three years, and having also selected the site of the Temple there.

There is no reason to doubt the tradition which locates David's tomb in the tower called after him, but we shall never know until some digging is done there, and the stone coffin, probably with an identifying inscription, is brought to light. If his body has been preserved it will be a sight indeed to look upon the face of him who slew Goliath, who charmed Saul and all Israel by his elevated minstrelsy, and has been regarded by the Jews as their greatest hero ever since his reign.

But more interesting still, even though it presents us with no new portraits of great men and women, will be the excavating of the site of the Temple of Solomon. There is no doubt at all that it stood upon the rock now covered by the great Mosque in Jerusalem. But this rock is as sacred to the Moslem as it is to the Jew. It is considered as the centre of the earth and ranks next in importance to the Black Stone of Mecca. Only complete conquest can ever give the non-

The Queen of Sheba's Visit to King Solomon, from the Celebrated Painting by E. J. Poynter, R. A. The Scene is the Throne Room of Solomon's "Palace of the Cedars of Lebanon," Whose Site is Near That of the Temple, Now Occupied by the Mosque of Omar.

The Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem, which covers the site of Solomon's Temple. Tradition tells of labyrinths under the Temple, in which archaeologists hope to discover valuable historical records when victory for the Allies in the present war wrests Palestine from Mohammedan rule.

Mohammedan the right to dig at this place and search for whatever may still be there of the walls and foundations of the Temple of Solomon.

And in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, hard by the city of Jerusalem, is that line of tombs called the Tombs of the Kings, together with the tomb of Absalom, the beloved and ill-fated son of David. These, too, will be opened in all reverence to ascertain the reason for calling them the Tombs of the Kings, and to see whether the body of Absalom is actually there.

We want to know, to see with our own eyes, all that we can of the great past, of its mighty buildings and mighty men, and if the possibility of realizing these hopes comes with peace it will not be the least of the real gains coming from this terrible war. The proving of the truth or falsity of these ancient traditions will go far towards helping us understand the history of the past, and will also aid us in comprehending the great human side of the men and women who are as yet mere names with some stories clustering around them.

Aside from the possibility that the actual mummies of these Biblical personages may be brought to light, their identity attested by indestructible tablet writings, there is also a reasonable hope of finding in some of these characteristic ancient archives pages of the actual original tablet manuscript from which our Books of the Old Testament descended to us.

The Patriarchs and their descendants for many generations, according to the Bible, jealously guarded their records. What is more likely than that much of the original writings constituting our Scriptures were treasured by the House of David, and that Solomon provided vaults for their preservation beneath the Temple.

It has long been the opinion of scholars that the Pentateuch, in fact all of the earlier writings of the Old Testament, were originally written in Babylonian cuneiform characters. Therefore they were written not in books, but upon tablets, in disconnected episodes, at various times, each tablet writing containing references to the matter on other tablets to provide for a later compilation in connected narrative.

Ezra is supposed to have been the compiler of the tablets written by Moses. Eventually, as we know, copies of the connected narrative were made; but nothing is more unlikely than that the original inspired tablet writings were allowed to be destroyed or carelessly handled. They were the indestructible original writings, and would outlast innumerable transcriptions upon papyrus or other material. As the Rev. William C. Piercy, M.A., writes in his "Archaeology of the Old Testament:"

"Why should Moses not be the author, as he is said to be by the tradition of many centuries? Why should his tablets not have been preserved just as much as Hammurabi's Code or the letters of the Palestinian governors?"

So the archaeologists who are waiting for England to gain control of Palestine may reasonably ask: "Where, if not in the labyrinths beneath Solomon's Temple, would the original Old Testament tablets naturally be placed by the most powerful of Hebrew monarchs, and their logical custodian, for careful preservation?"

Other writings, dealing with current events, family histories and the manners and customs of the times—the most fascinating of human documents—have been found in many ancient tombs. Why not in the tomb of Rachel, the favorite heroine of Old Testament romance; of Joseph, her son, the political genius who wrought the beginning of Egypt's end; of Abraham and his immediate descendants, so securely placed by the first of the Patriarchs in the Cave of Machpelah?

What a wonderful prospect depealing upon the outcome of "Armageddon!"

Your Muscles May Be Full of Pearls

IT IS quite possible that many of the readers of this page have pearls in their muscles, especially the muscles of the arms. There is, however, no need for such people to submit to an operation in order to get the pearls out. It would not be worth the pain and the cost for these pearls are only about the size of a hempseed.

They are true pearls, however, being made in exactly the same way as real pearls, burying the body of a tiny flesh-worm. In the case of man, this flesh-worm is the dreaded trichina, which comes often from eating pork (especially

raw pork) in summer. Just as the pearl of the market is the oyster's way of disposing of an unpleasant worm parasite, so does the constitution of man enshrine in a pearl-like sac these trichinae of his parasite.

The worm that causes the oyster to make the pearl has an interesting career. It used to be thought that pearls were the result of a grain of sand making its way into an oyster shell or a mussel shell. It is now known that it is a worm, which, in order to live, must find lodging in the result of a grain of sand making its way into an oyster shell or a mussel shell. It is now known that it is a worm, which, in order to live, must find lodging in the result of a grain of sand making its way into an oyster shell or a mussel shell. It is now known that it is a worm, which, in order to live, must find lodging in the result of a grain of sand making its way into an oyster shell or a mussel shell.

duces many thousands of eggs, which hatch out as minute swimming creatures, who may consider themselves fortunate if they fall upon a bed of mussels or oysters. They enter the shell and make their way into the soft substance of the mollusc. A few penetrate no further than the skin and become encased in the pearl-layers. These are the pearls.

The others, which have found their way into the mussels or the oyster's body, thrive. They have the chance of being swallowed by a mussel-eating fish—such as a skate—and then a further chance of that skate being eaten by a shark. Then, and only then, does the worm have a chance to grow and become adult, producing in turn its innumerable young.

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